



2019

WEST FARGO ANNUAL REPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- From the Office of the Chief.....1
- Mission Statement & Values.....2
- Vital Statistics.....3
- Organizational Chart.....4
- Personnel.....5
- Operations Overview.....6
- Incident Statistics.....7
- Emergency Medical Services.....8
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.....9
- Planning Zone 1.....10
- Planning Zone 2.....11
- Planning Zone 3.....12
- Planning Zone 4.....13
- Planning Zone 5.....14
- Planning Zone 6.....15
- Code Compliance.....16
- Fire Loss.....17
- Training.....18
- Events.....19

The Honorable Bernie Dardis
President, West Fargo City Commission
800 4th Ave E
West Fargo, ND 58078

Commission President Dardis,

It is my distinct pleasure to submit to you the 2019 Annual Report for the West Fargo Fire Department. It is my hope that as you read the following pages, you become as proud of the fire department as I continue to be. Each year presents unique challenges from the last, and the way our department bands together to meet them continues to impress me. Our success is measured in various ways, such as a lives saved during emergency situations and property salvaged from flames and natural disasters. But I firmly believe that the best barometer of our success can be found in how sincere our department takes the privilege of serving the great community in which we all live.

Each year that goes by pushes the total number of calls upward. Ten years ago, the department responded to 216 total calls for service, which were mainly fire and rescue related. Flash forward to 2019, the department responded to 2,133 calls for service, which included emergency medical and public service calls for service. A lot has come together to ensure our department is able to effectively respond to the increased call volume, while at the same time, increasing our level and quality of services to the public. I am immensely thankful to our dedicated employees who make this dichotomy of public service possible.

As the City of West Fargo continues to grow, in both population and geography, the community itself is also transforming. From new developments and infill through the city, we keep adding property and lives for the fire department to protect. I am happy to report to you that last year, although we surpassed the previous year's call volume by 555 calls, we had the lowest call volume per 10,000 residents in the metro area. In 2019, we had 547 calls per 10,000 residents, which is 41.6% lower than Fargo and 41.9% lower than Moorhead. Unfortunately, one civilian fire fatality was reported in 2019, a stark reminder that statistics of lower call volume only portray one aspect of the fire problem in our city.

In closing, I'd like to thank the City of West Fargo Commission and the West Fargo Fire Department Board of Directors on the successful merger of the department with the city, effective January 2nd, 2020. I firmly believe that this new chapter of the department will produce a department that is more responsive to the demands of the public.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Fuller, MPA, EFO
Chief of the Department



MISSION STATEMENT AND VALUES

"In a spirit of excellence, integrity, and dedication, the West Fargo Fire Department is committed to serving the community, protecting lives and property through the provision of professional fire and emergency services, twenty-four hours a day"

To build and maintain public trust, we hold ourselves accountable to these core values:

Commitment

Commitment is the focusing of efforts, the dedication of service, towards an objective or ideal. For the department, it means commitment to the people we serve in the community and to each other.

Integrity

Doing what is morally and ethically right, always, even when no one is looking. The public holds a great deal of trust in this department, and rightfully so. They depend on us to be having our best day when they are having their worst.

Community Service

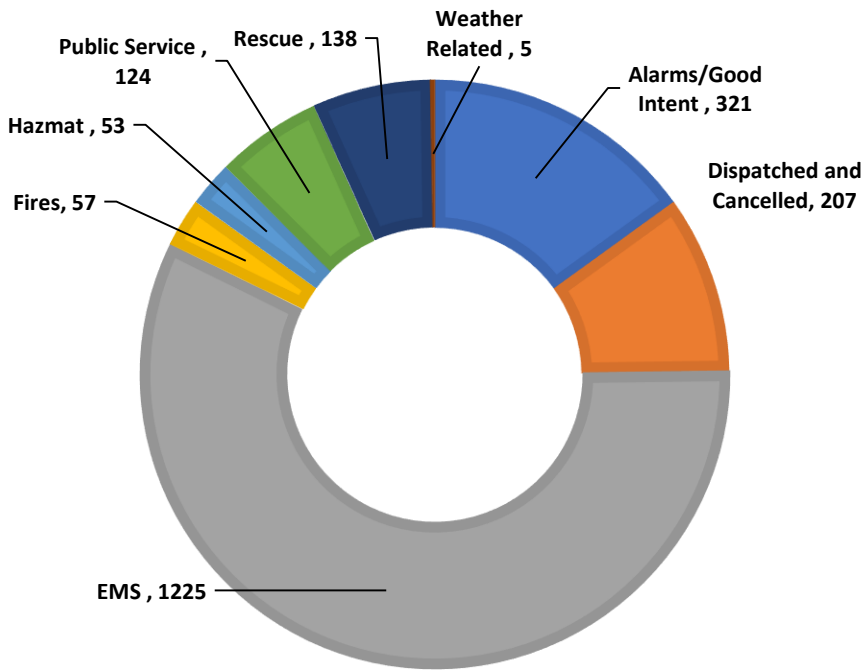
The focus of the department is to serve the community. We, as a department, make the pledge to respond when a member or visitor of our great city is in trouble, no matter what.

Professionalism

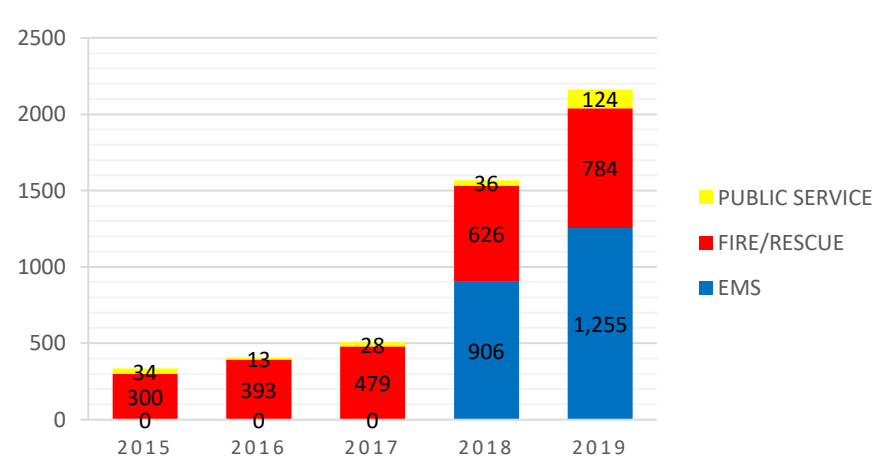
In maintaining a high level of professionalism, we are able to provide an excellent service to the community in the safest manner possible while maintaining fiscal stewardship of the taxpayer's resources.

VITAL STATISTICS

2019 INCIDENTS BY TYPE



TOTAL INCIDENTS BY YEAR



Building Fires
4.1
per capita
30% less than
Metro Avg

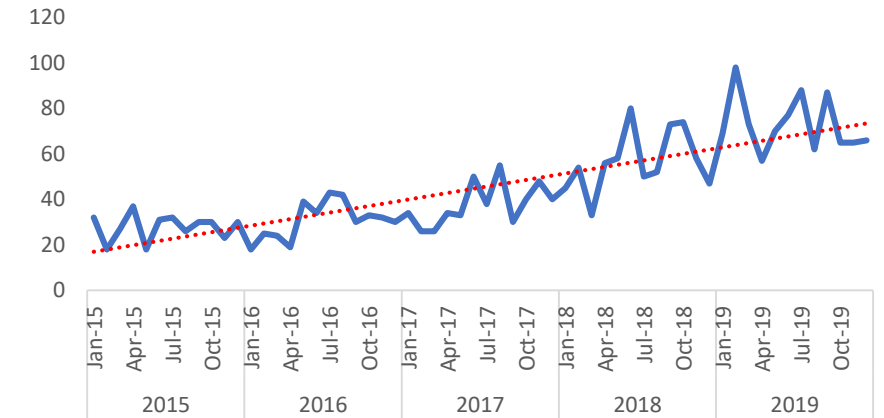
Medical Emerg
314
per capita
32% less than
Metro Avg



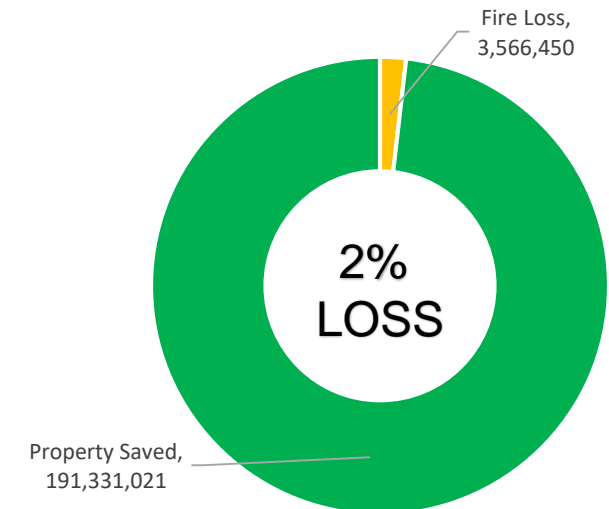
Other than EMS
233
per capita
66% less than
Metro Avg

Total Call Volumes
547
per capita
42% less than
Metro Avg

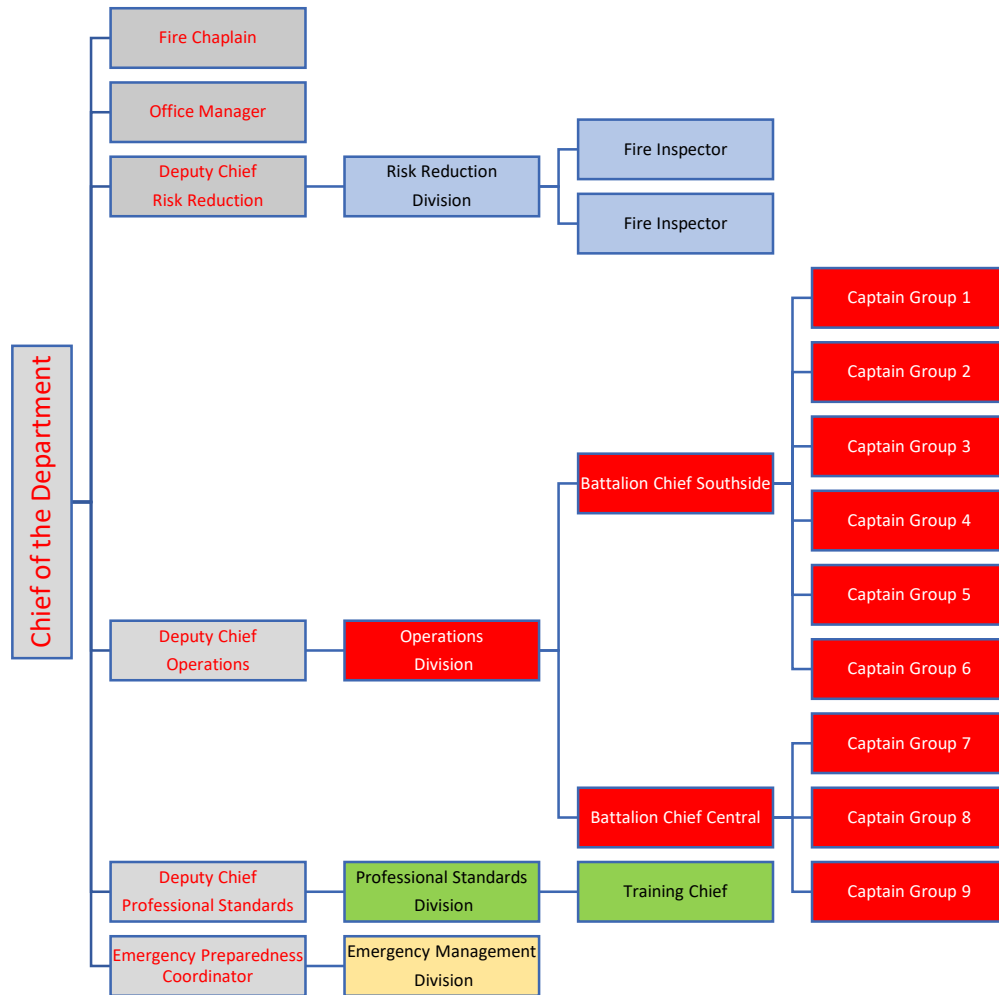
2015-2019 FIRE CALLS FOR SERVICE PER MONTH



2019 FIRE LOSS v PROPERTY SAVED



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Five divisions are staffed in the West Fargo Fire Department, each with their own specific responsibilities. This helps the department manage the vast responsibility of not only responding to emergencies, but preventing them from occurring, reducing community risk, and making sure the whole community is resilient in the face of a disaster.

Administration—this division maintains the administrative tasks such as finance, policy, standard operating guidelines, and mutual aid/auto aid agreements.

Community Risk Reduction—this division maintains Community Risk Reduction programs, which are designed to reduce our overall risk from all hazards within the City of West Fargo.

Operations—the division maintains all operational response programs, such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, and technical rescue.

Professional Standards—this division maintains all support services, including training, fleet, maintenance, as well as research and development.

Emergency Management—this division maintains emergency management plans and programs, with the goal of building the whole community readiness and resiliency.



Scott Johnson
2019 West Fargo Firefighter of the Year

PERSONNEL

Administration		Community Risk Reduction
Chief Daniel Fuller		Fire Marshal Dell Sprecher
Office Manager Tina Wagner		Inspector John Neeb
Fire Chaplain Mike O'Berg		Inspector Travis Olson
Emergency Management		Professional Standards
Emergency Coord Pierre Freeman		Deputy Chief Tom Clark
		Training Chief Matt Berg
Operations		
Deputy Chief Kendel Frost		
Southside Fire Station		Central Fire Station
TBD		Battalion Chief Steve Baron
Group 1	Group 5	Group 7
Capt Joey Porter	Capt Scott Berge	Capt Michael Hawley
FF Brandon Gaugler	FF Kyle Benson	FF Will Krumwiede
FF Mike Sylstad	FF Dylan Kopischke	FF Jamie Morlan
FF Kenneth Miller	FF Reinand Swanepoel	FF Matt Brieland
	FF Dale Koneig	FF Dave Troy
Group 2	FF Ben Temp	FF Chase Cvanara
Capt Jason Carriveau	FF Joao Da Chuna	
FF David Sapp	FF Chris Liston	Group 8
FF Ben Herbst		Capt Scott Johnson
FF Garret Rix	Group 6	FF Bill Hall
	Capt Bryce Allickson	FF Code Nirschl
Group 3	FF Brad Lanz	FF Jaden Rhodes
Capt Levi Nesvold	FF Darin Underhill	FF David Babb
FF Zach Banister	FF Tucker Bucholz	FF Latasha Keller
FF Joe Johnson	FF Craig Griesbach	
FF Kellen Jorgenson	FF Charles McCann	
	FF Code Zavadil	Group 9
Group 4	FF Martin O'Bryant	Capt Jake Dykema
Capt Nate Schmid		FF Mike Obach
FF Spencer Roth		FF Morgan Ventin
FF Nick Warvra		FF Dylan Dominguez
FF Kirsten Stanger		FF Corey Markel
FF Theo Dunham		FF Connor Crago
FF Sunsith Danukura		
FF Leon DuBois		

RETIREMENTS

Perry McClellan

25 Years of Service



Captain Perry McClellan retired from service on December 31st, 2019 after 25 years of dedicated service to the community. During his time on the department, Perry filled many roles. As a Firefighter, Engineer, and Captain. As an elected member of the Board of Directors in 2015, Perry served as the secretary, keeping 60 monthly meeting minutes. Perry kept the tradition of service alive within his family; his father, the late Perry McClellan served the department from June of 1971 to January 1993. Congrats on your retirement Perry!

Rory Jorgensen

25 Years of Service



Firefighter Rory Jorgensen retired from service on December 31st, 2019 after 25 years of dedicated service to the community. While a member of the department, Rory served as a Captain and as the Assistant Chief. Throughout his career, Rory was quick to offer help for department projects, as his extensive network of friends and colleagues. Congrats on your retirement Rory!

NEW HIRES

David Babb
Connor Crago
Chase Cvanara
Joao Da Cunha
Dylan Dominguez
Leon DuBois
Theo Dunham

Sunsith Dunkara
Kellen Jorgensen
Latashia Keller
Dale Koenig
Chris Liston
Corey Markel
Charlie McCann

Martain O'Bryant
Garret Rix
Kristin Stanger
Rieland Swanepoel
Ben Temp
Cody Zavadil

RESIGNATIONS

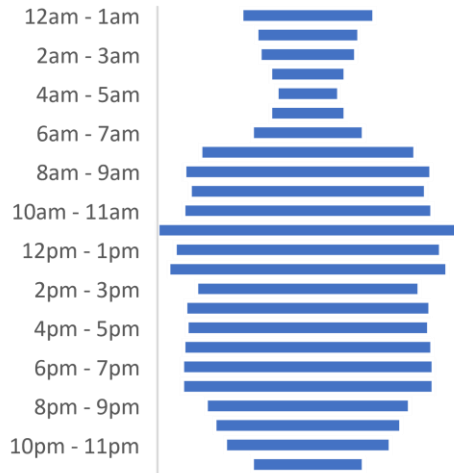
Don Altslauger
Nicholas Withnell

Brian Christansen
Axel Rose

Kevin Swanson

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

**2019 CALL BREAKDOWN
BY TIME OF DAY**

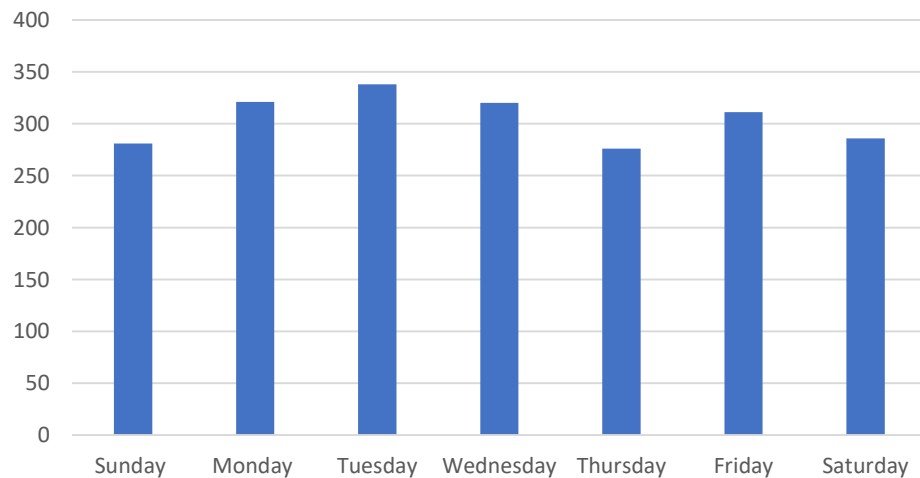


The West Fargo Fire Department is a combination fire department, utilizing full time firefighters and paid on call or part time firefighters. Authorized for a total strength of 67 employees, 22 are career employees and 45 are part time or “paid on call” employees. Each day, there are 15 employees assigned; four are on duty, in the station assigned to Ladder 75/Squad 75. Another full-time employee is assigned to Battalion 70 as the citywide fire supervisor, and after 5pm that unit is staffed with chief officers who take the unit home and respond to calls.

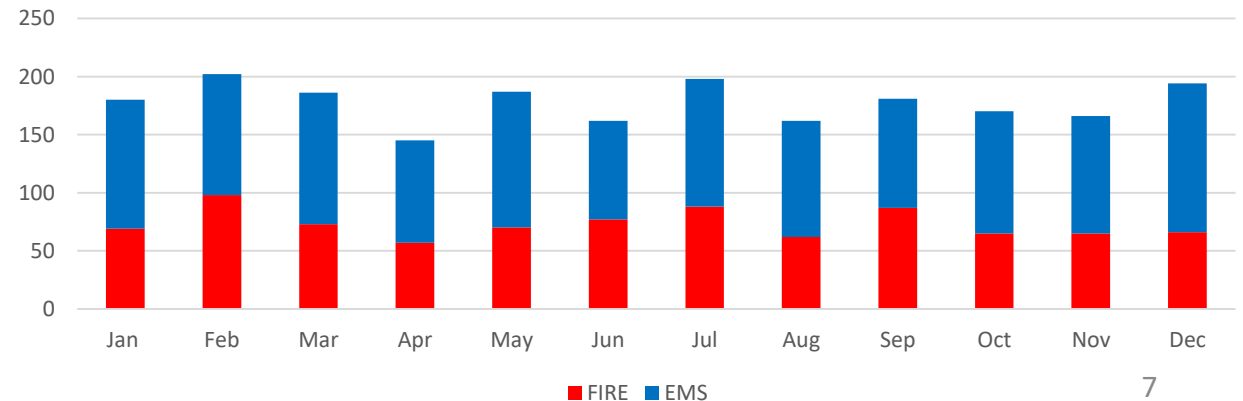
The Operations Division provides the emergency response to the city, from two fire stations. The Central Fire Station, located at 106 1st St and the Southside Fire Station, located at 445 29th Ave W.

As an “all hazards” department, West Fargo Fire responds to every emergency, regardless of the call type. For instance, fire suppression is the classic example of what a fire department does, however the department also responds to medical emergencies, technical rescue, hazardous materials calls, and water/ice rescue.

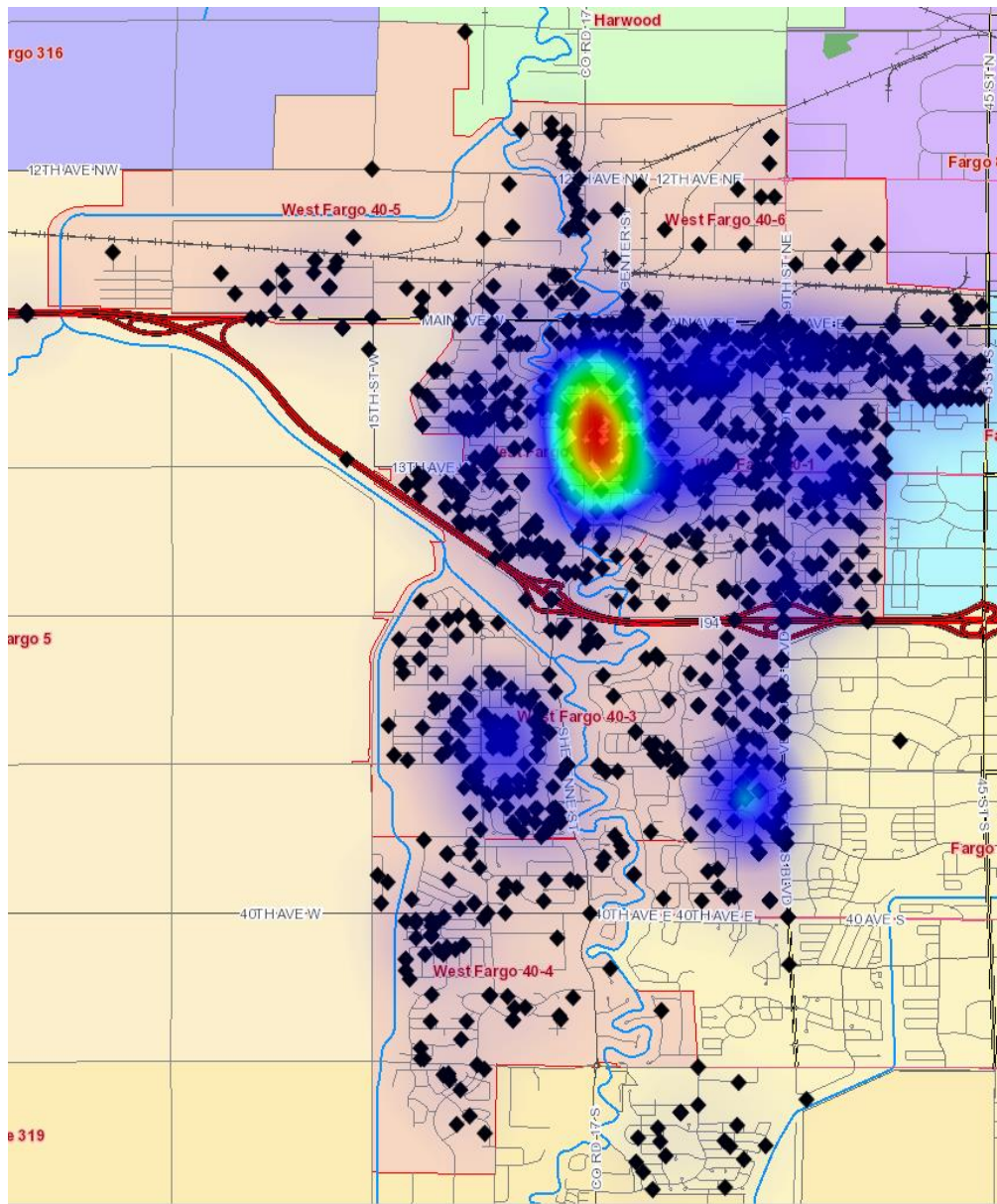
2019 CALL BREAKDOWN BY DAY OF THE WEEK



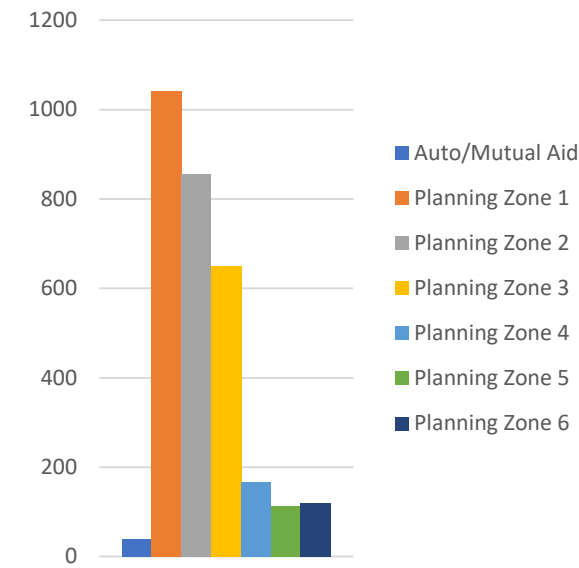
2019 CALLS BY MONTH AND TYPE



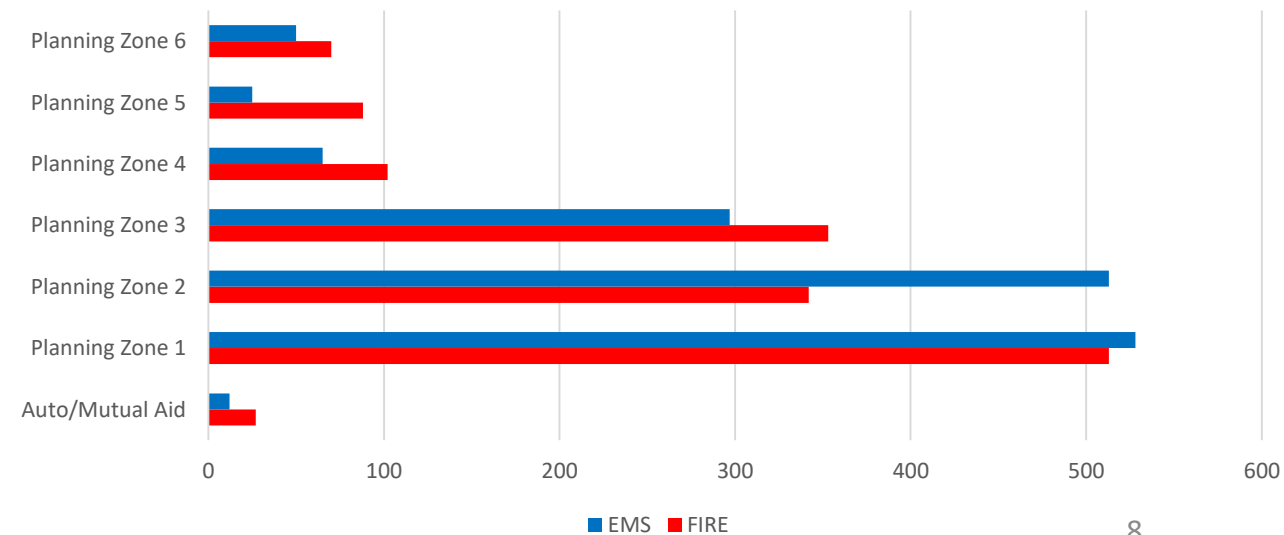
INCIDENT STATISTICS



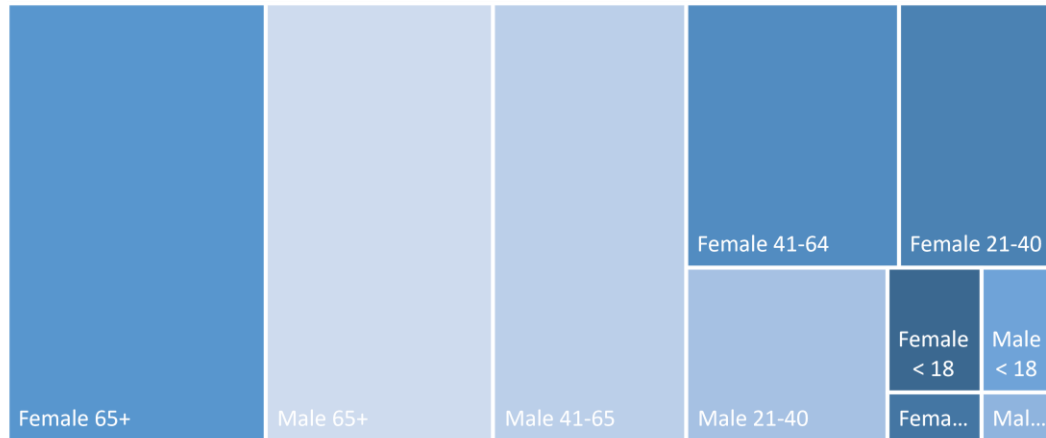
2019 Total Unit Response by Planning Zone



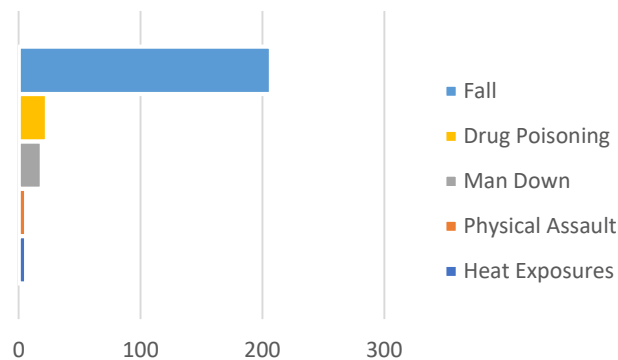
2019 FIRE v EMS by Planning Zone



2019 PATIENT BY AGE AND GENDER



2019 TOP 5 EMS CALLS BY TYPE



In 2019, the department began to deliver EMS services to the public through the use of a bike patrol at large, planned events. In all, the bikes were used at nine public events, the largest being over 5,000 people. The equipment was made possible through donations from Scheels, Toppers, Kustom Concepts and Bell Bank.



In the evening of May 9th, 2019, the department was dispatched to a report of a male who was unconscious. Immediately after arriving on scene, Firefighter David Sapp and Firefighter Darrin Underhill found the male patient pulseless and not breathing. They initiated CPR, attached an automatic defibrillator, and placed a supraglottic airway. In short, they began to pump his heart, find and treat any cardiac dysrhythmias, and breathe for him. Ten days after his sudden cardiac arrest event, 64 year old Janath (to the right of FF Sapp) was able to come to the firehouse with his family to say thanks.



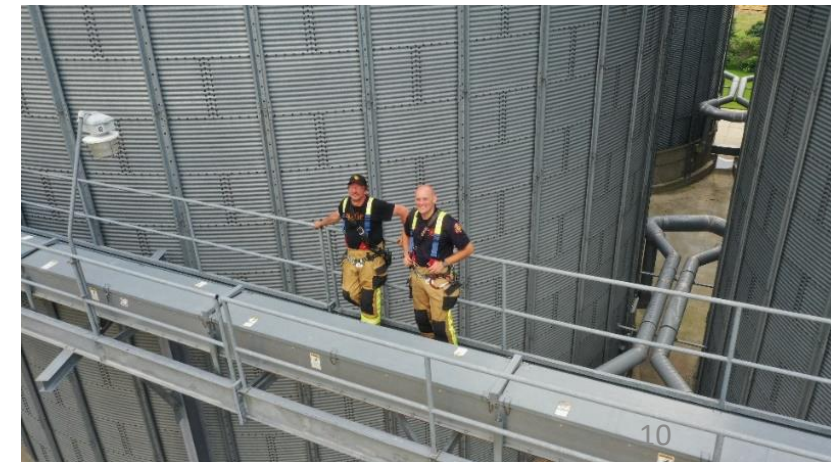
In the morning of February 7th, 2019, Rene Craft suffered a sudden cardiac arrest event. It was witnessed by her husband Joe, who immediately called 911 and began CPR. Rescue 75 and Battalion 70 responded to the call; Firefighter Joe Johnson, Captain Joey Porter and Battalion Chief Kendel Frost, along with officers from the West Fargo Police Department and paramedics from FM Ambulance Service worked in tandem to continue the life saving efforts began by her husband and ultimately saved her life.



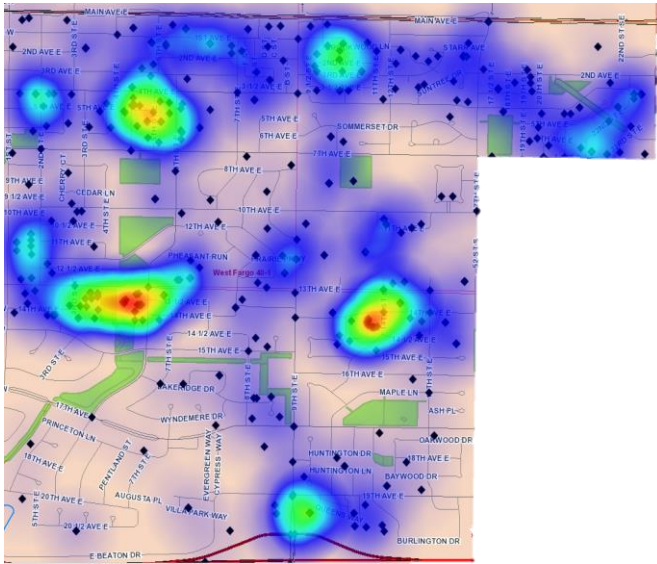
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES



Beginning in late 2018, the department began to incorporate unmanned aerial vehicles into the preparedness, response and training plans of the department. The department now has two drones, each with different capabilities and two pilots who are Part 107 certified.



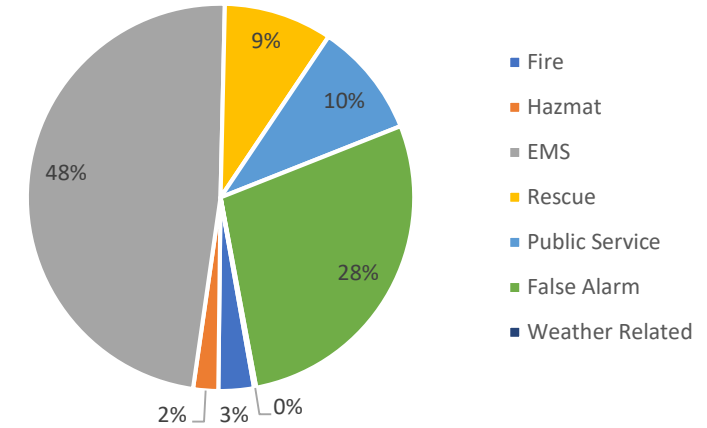
PLANNING ZONE 1



Fire Planning Zone 1 is located north of I-94, south of Main Ave E, east of 1st St to the city line with Fargo. Within the planning zone are several developments that have housing stock ranging from the earliest days of the city to those built within the last decade. Planning Zone 1 offers some unique challenges, such as:

- 13th Ave E Corridor, several “big box” commercial stores, restaurants and other commercial buildings
- West Fargo City Hall
- West Fargo Library
- West Fargo Police Department
- Forty-four large (36 units average) multifamily apartment buildings
- One hundred twenty-four small (ten units or less) multifamily apartment buildings
- Seventy-seven commercial occupancies
- West Fargo High School, the largest high school in the state
- Cheney Middle School, the largest middle school in the state
- Five hotels and a convention center

PZ 1 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE

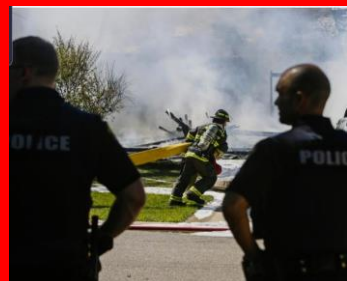


UNIT RESPONSE

	Fire	EMS	Total
	513	528	1041

6:32min Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident

6:34min Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident



PLANNING ZONE 2

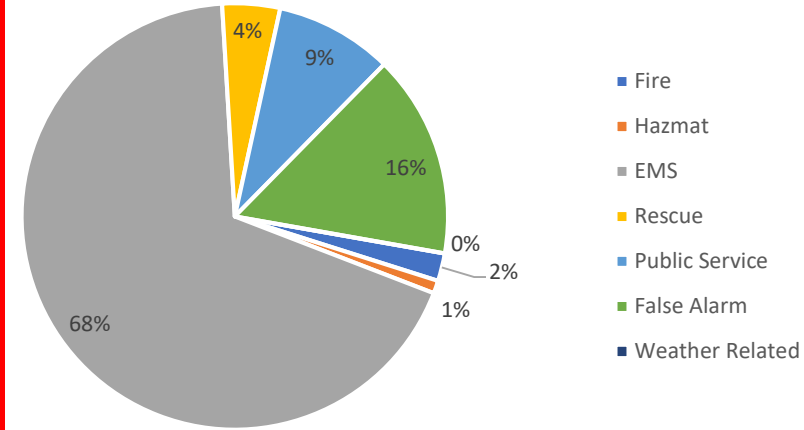


Fire Planning Zone 2 is located north of I-94, south of Main Ave W, west of 1st St to the city limits. In this older section of the city, the housing stock is mainly single or bi-level homes built in the late nineties. Planning Zone 2 offers some unique challenges, such as:

- Main Ave W corridor, with light industrial zones
- New commercial development along Sheyenne St at the I-94 interchange
- Nine story high rise public housing
- Thirty-seven large (36 units average) multifamily apartment buildings
- Fifty-nine small (ten units or less) multifamily apartment buildings
- Sixty-six commercial occupancies
- Sheyenne Crossings, a large senior living complex



PZ 2 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE



UNIT RESPONSE

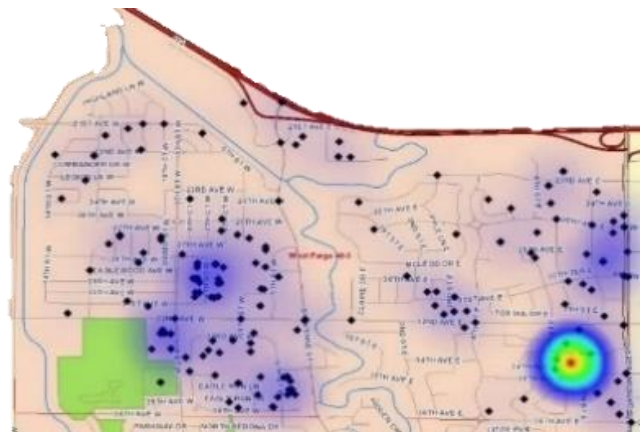
Fire	EMS	Total
342	513	855



5:39min Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident

6:11min Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident

PLANNING ZONE 3

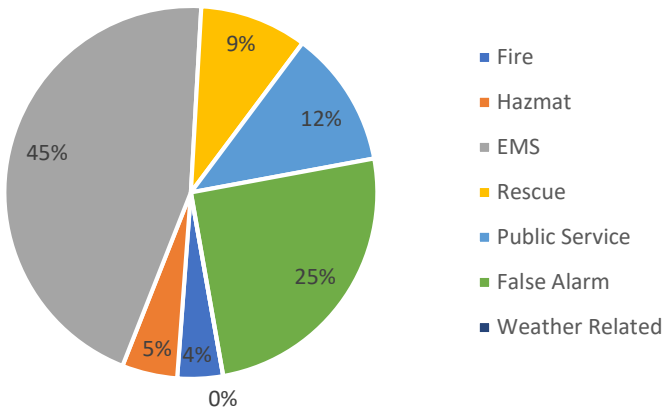


Fire Planning Zone 3 is located south of I-94, north of 36th Ave, east to the Fargo city line and west to the city limits. This section of the city was developed in the early 2000's and every single home is built with lightweight wood truss construction. Planning zone 3 also is home to several commercial areas. Planning Zone 3 offers some unique challenges, such as:


- Veterans Boulevard corridor
- Several large commercial buildings such as Costco, Wex Health, Cashwise, The largest multifamily building in the state; Latitude 46, which has 330 units
- New Perspective Senior Living, a large senior living complex with XX residents
- The West Fargo Sports Arena, a two-sheet ice hockey arena
- The Lights on 32nd, the largest entertainment/commercial complex in the city
- One hundred five commercial occupancies
- Sixty-one small (10 units or less) multifamily buildings
- Seventy-one large (35-unit average) multifamily buildings
- Liberty Middle School, the second largest middle school in the state



PZ 3 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE




UNIT RESPONSE		
Fire	EMS	Total
353	297	650



4:48min

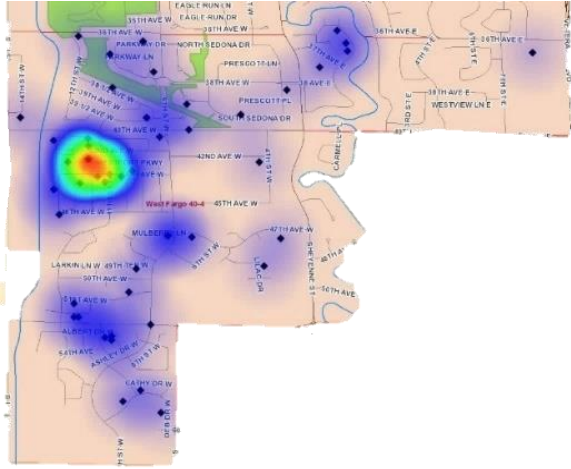
Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident



5:37min

Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident

PLANNING ZONE 4

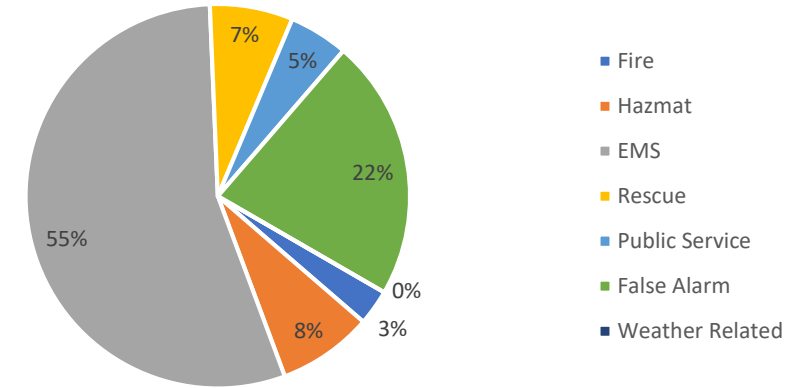


Fire Planning Zone 4 is located south of 36th Ave, east to the Fargo city line and south and west to the city limits. This section of the city is last to be developed, although several hundred houses have been built in the last two years, and three to five hundred are planned over the next two years. Planning zone 4 is almost all residential development, and has two unique hazards;

- Sheyenne High School, the second largest high school in the state
- Legacy Elementary School



PZ 4 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE



UNIT RESPONSE

Fire	EMS	Total
102	65	167



6:33min Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident

8:15min Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident

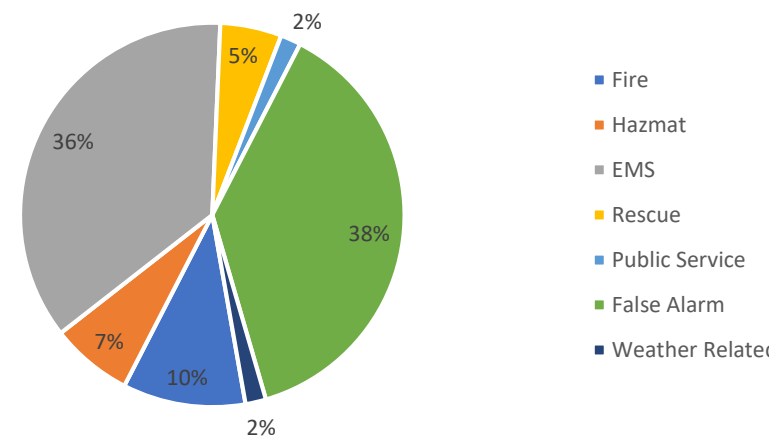
PLANNING ZONE 5




Fire Planning Zone 5 is located north of Main Ave E, east of the Sheyenne River, north to city limits and east to the Fargo city line. The majority of this area is zoned industrial, with the exception of a small development along Center St. Planning zone 5 has some target hazards and challenges:

- Cargill Seed Crushing Plant
- Magellan Tank Farm and Pipeline Station
- Flint Hills Resources
- Bayer Seed Plant
- Integrity Windows
- Midland Garage Door
- Hazer's Auto and Truck Parts

PZ 5 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE




UNIT RESPONSE		
Fire	EMS	Total
88	25	113



7:17min

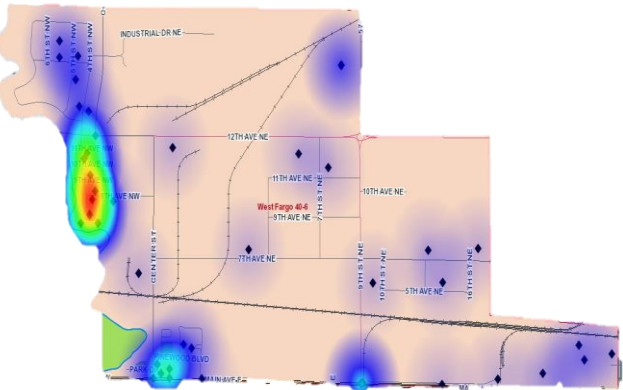
Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident



8:32min

Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident

PLANNING ZONE 6

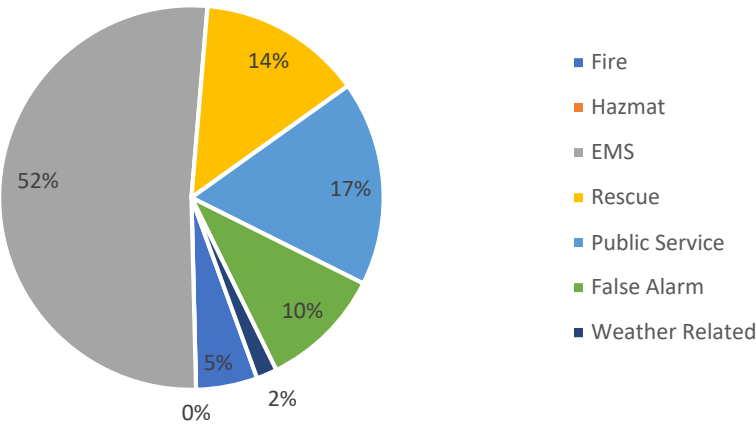


Fire Planning Zone 6 is located north of Main Ave E, west of the Sheyenne River, west and north to city limits. The majority of this area is zoned industrial, with the exception of a small development along Center St. Planning zone 5 has some target hazards and challenges:


- West Fargo Public Works Compound
- Busch Ag
- Agassiz Seeds
- West Fargo Stockyards
- West Fargo Public Schools Transportation
- Fed-Ex
- US Postal Service Sorting




PZ 6 CALL TYPE DETERMINED ON SCENE

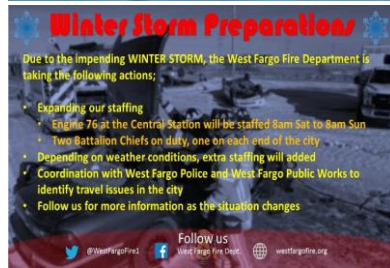


UNIT RESPONSE		
Fire	EMS	Total
70	50	120

 8:18min Average response time for arrival of first unit to an EMS incident

 8:17min Average response time for arrival of first engine to a fire incident

Throughout the year, several safety messages and department informational infographics were distributed to the public through social media



The Community Risk Reduction Division provides enforcement of fire codes, reviews the building of engineered fire safety systems in new buildings and retrofit occupancies, and provides education on fire and life safety to every population group living in West Fargo.

Throughout 2019, the Community Risk Reduction Division continued to not only endeavor in the three core areas of risk reduction; enforcement, engineering, and education, but also expanded their role into emergency response through beginning a partnership with Cass County Social Services to address vulnerable adults in our community. The first six months of the program resulted in 7 vulnerable adult reports sent to social services and 55 in home fire & life safety visits by the risk reduction staff.

In the winter of 2019, after several rounds of heavy snow, risk reduction began a campaign to involve residents in clearing their neighborhood hydrants of snow. In all, 67 submissions were received and 12 winners were given department coffee mugs.



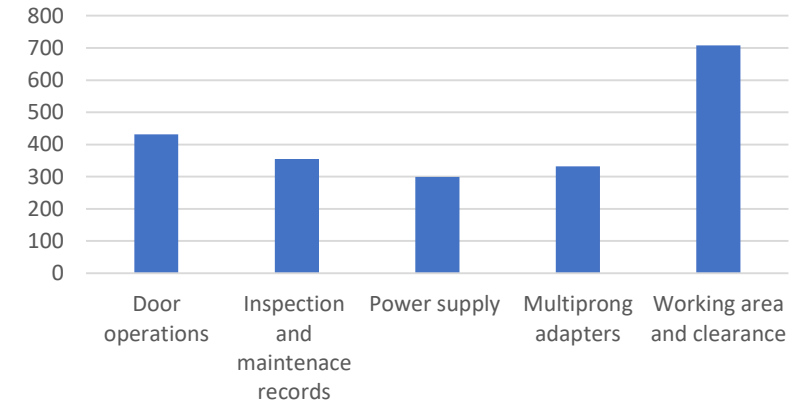
CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS

Today, the City of West Fargo has adopted the 2015 Edition of the International Fire Code, and as such, enforces commercial, industrial, and places of assembly to that code. In 2019, the Community Risk Reduction Division conducted 1,608 code enforcement inspections. Of those inspections, 9,616 violations were reported and corrected.

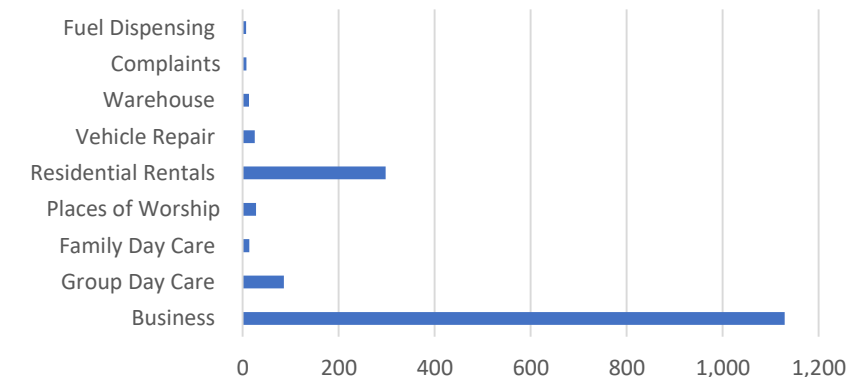
In 2019, the department began a partnership with Brycer's Compliance Engine, a third-party compliance program that is funded through an increase in inspection fees. The program allows for tracking of all fire safety engineered systems in the city, and proactively notifies the owner, the inspection company, and the department of upcoming testing requirements. In the case of a system that falls out of date, the program regularly notifies all three entities to ensure that systems are either properly inspected in a timely manner.



2019 TOP 5 FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS



2019 CODE COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS BY OCCUPANCY



The West Fargo Fire Department has always understood it's importance in the community, while in recent years a transformation has taken over to become involved in more than just block parties. In 2019, the department was represented at 23 events.

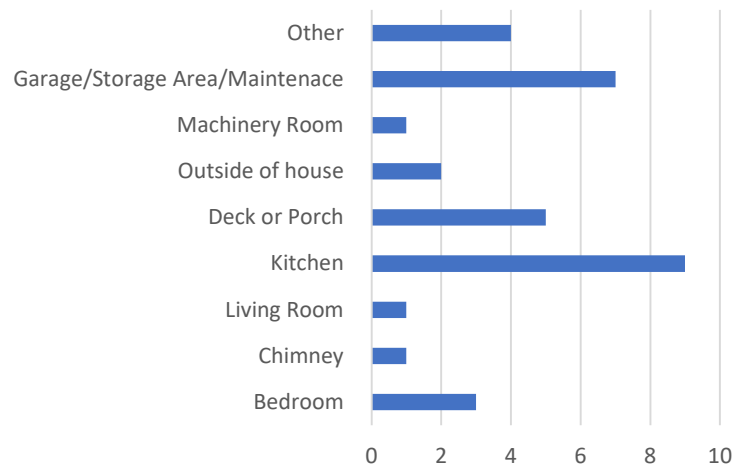
During the West Fargo Senior Citizens Extravaganza, the Risk Reduction Division set up an informational booth aimed at preventing two common emergencies seen in the elderly population in West Fargo; injury from falls and cooking fires. One lucky participant won a home fire extinguisher.



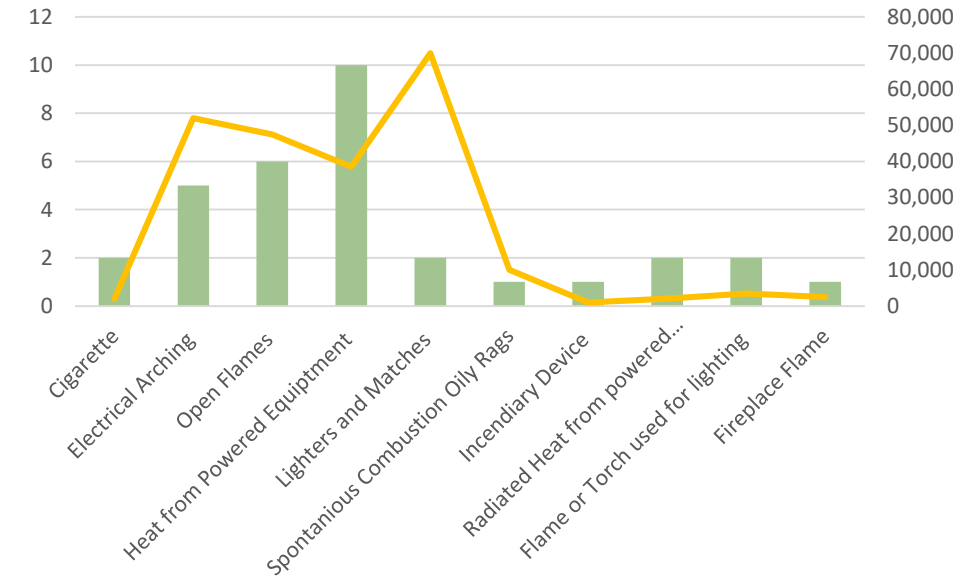
The department also participated in the Night to Unite, setup by the West Fargo Police Department. During this event, we debuted our Kids Firefighter Combat Course, a smaller version of our firefighter fitness course. Department members also participated in some good natured competition with our police officers; the donut eating contest and tug of war. Overall, we came out with a .500 average, losing the eating contest but winning the tug of war. A demonstration of home fire sprinklers was also conducted; the sprinkler kept the fire in check for 5 minutes, while the unsprinklered side was fully involved in three minutes.



2019 BUILDING FIRE ORIGIN BY ROOM



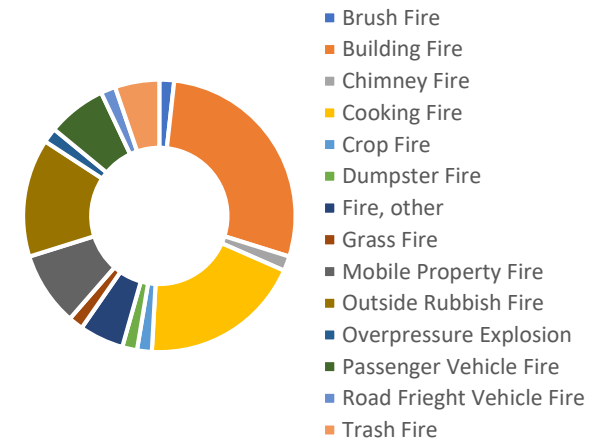
2019 HEAT SOURCE WITH FIRE LOSS



In 2019, a total of 57 fires were reported in the city. Of those fires, 16 were building fires, which are considered the most dangerous to the community. Unfortunately, one civilian was killed by fire in 2019, an event that hasn't occurred within the last ten years in West Fargo.



2019 FIRES BY TYPE



TRAINING

Number of monthly training hours

5,390



Number of on shift training hours

2,986



Number of hours "off site" training

352



2019 TRAINING BY TOPIC

- Operational Readiness
- Engineer
- Medical
- Distance Learning
- Company
- Pre-Fire Planning
- Facility
- Rescue
- Hazmat

Medical

Distance Learning

Rescue

Engineer

Pre-Fire...

O...

R...

F...

H...



NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
LEADERSHIP
INITIATIVE



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



HARVARD Kennedy School
Center for Public
LEADERSHIP



Minnesota State
Community and Technical College



NATIONAL
FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS
FOUNDATION



NORTH DAKOTA
FIREFIGHTER'S
ASSOCIATION

EVENTS IN 2019

